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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,539	08/05/2003	Tsang-I Chen	CHEN393	6431
1444	7590	12/18/2003	EXAMINER	
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. 624 NINTH STREET, NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20001-5303			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/633,539	Applicant(s) CHEN, TSANG-I	
	Examiner James R. Harvey	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>08052003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

- The Information Disclosure statement(s) and related documents that were filed on 8-5-03 have been considered.

Drawings

- The drawings are objected to because the cross-hatching is improper. See MPEP 608.02.

For example, portions of the drawings in section and made of an insulated material must be crosshatched with alternating thick and thin lines, not with just thin lines.

- **Please note that drawing corrections will no longer be held in abeyance. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.**
- **If drawing correction are not submitted with the response to this office action, the response will be consider a Non-Responsive Reply and the following paragraph will apply:**

The reply filed on (...) is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: (...) Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Claim Objections

- Claim(s) 1-6 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - In reference to claims 1 and 7 (lines 20-25) the claim limitation “at least two connecting members respectively each having ... and a contact portion respectively disposed in contact with the inner side of the center prong and the at least one annular contact” appears to be a typographical error and is not supported by the specification or drawings. For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean “a first connecting member and a second connecting member of at least two connecting members [respectively] ... each having ... and the first connecting member having a contact portion [respectively] disposed in contact with the inner side of the center prong and the second connecting member having a contact portion disposed in contact with the at least one annular contact”. This is supported on page 8, lines 4 and 5 of applicant's specification. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.
 - In reference to Claim 3, the claim limitation “tubular” is a broad term that can define either a hollow cylinder or solid cylinder. Applicant's drawings do not support a hollow cylinder therefor, for purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean a solid tube. If applicant wishes patent protection for a hollow cylinder, applicant must amend the drawings in a manner consistent with that limitation.
 - Appropriate response to the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 2833

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- Claim(s) 1-4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chou (6089921).

-- In reference to Claim 1 and 7, Chou (cover sheet)

a housing having an inner cover shell 3, an outer cover shell 1 abutted against the inner cover shell, a wire hole 131 (for wire springs 17), an opening 31 formed in the inner cover shell, and a substrate 4 provided inside the outer cover shell;

a rotary prong holder 25 mounted inside the housing and rotatably coupled to the opening 31 in the inner cover shell;

at least two prongs (23, 24) respectively fastened to the rotary prong holder, the at least two prongs each having an outer side respectively extended out of the opening in the inner cover shell (figure 2) and an inner side respectively fastened to the rotary prong holder, the at least two prongs including one center prong 241 and at least one side prong 231, the inner side of the center prong 241 being fastened to a center of rotation of the rotary prong holder, the inner side of each of the at least one side prong being fastened to the rotary prong holder and spaced from the center of rotation of the rotary prong holder at a different distance;

at least one annular contact member 141 respectively mounted on one side of the rotary prong holder opposite to the opening in the inner cover shell and concentrically

Art Unit: 2833

arranged around the center of rotation of the rotary prong holder and respectively electrically connected to the at least one side prong; and

a first electrical connecting member 122 and a second electrical connecting member 142 of at least two connecting members affixed to the substrate 4, the number of the at least two connecting member being equal to the number of the at least two prongs, the at least two connecting members each having a connecting portion (adjacent 42 and 43, respectively) for the electrical connection of an electric wire (wire of light 46) and the first connecting member 122 having a contact portion 121 disposed in contact with the inner side of the center prong 241 and the second connecting member 142 having a contact portion 14 disposed in electrical contact with the at least one annular contact member 141.

-- In reference to Claim 2, Chou shows (cover sheet) the inner side of the center prong 241 has a cylindrical shape.

-- In reference to Claim 3. The rotatable electrical plug as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner side of the center prong has a tubular shape. The meaning of "tubular" is not set forth in the claims and is thus deemed to be so broad that it is met by the applied reference. Showing the same structure (i.e. applicant's element 41a of figure 1 has the same structure of Chou's element 241 (figure 1)).

-- In reference to Claim 4 and 8, Chou shows (cover sheet)

the at least two prongs are substantially L-shaped flat metal plate members each having a respective outer side made relatively longer than a respective inner side and a mounting leg extended from the respective inner side.

Art Unit: 2833

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claim(s) 5, 6, 9, and 10 has(have) allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s) 5, 6, 9, and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show an upper holding plate 31 and lower holding plate 32 (claims 5 and 9) or the detachable cap (claims 6 and 10) in combination with all the other elements of the claim and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

Conclusion

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Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

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Art Unit: 2833

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

- Effective **October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions. *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers (TCs). *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000).

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
December 5, 2003



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

sub·strate

sub·strate (sŭb'strāt') *noun*

1. The material or substance on which an enzyme acts.
2. *Biology.* A surface on which an organism grows or is attached.
3. An underlying layer; a substratum.

[From substratum.]

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